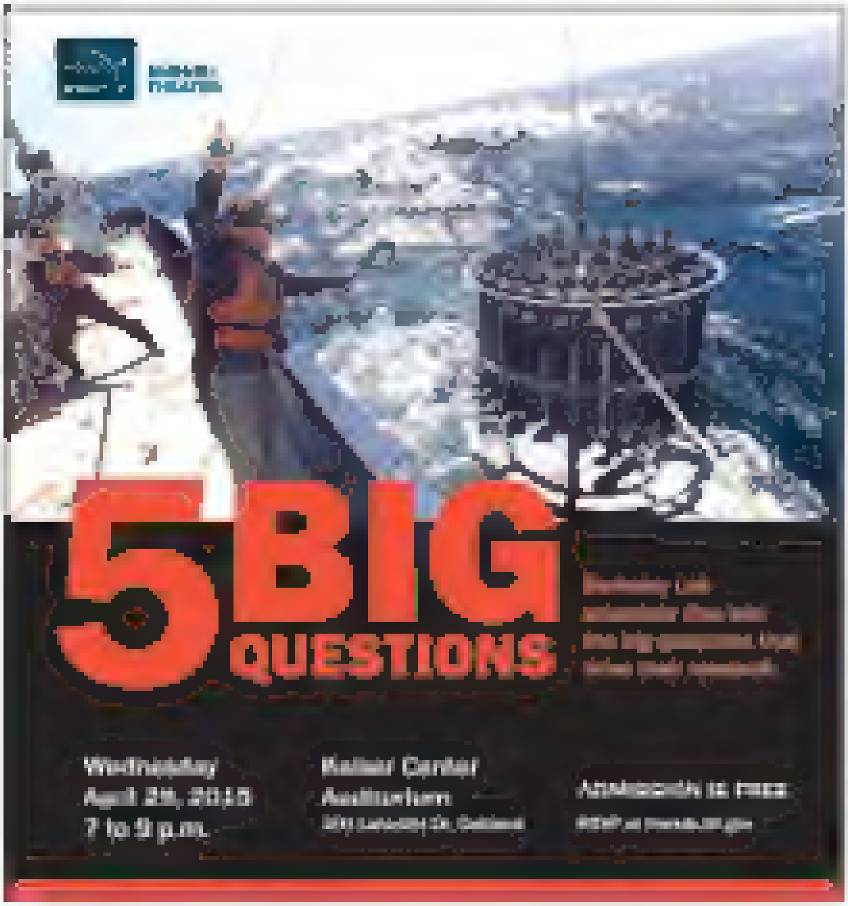
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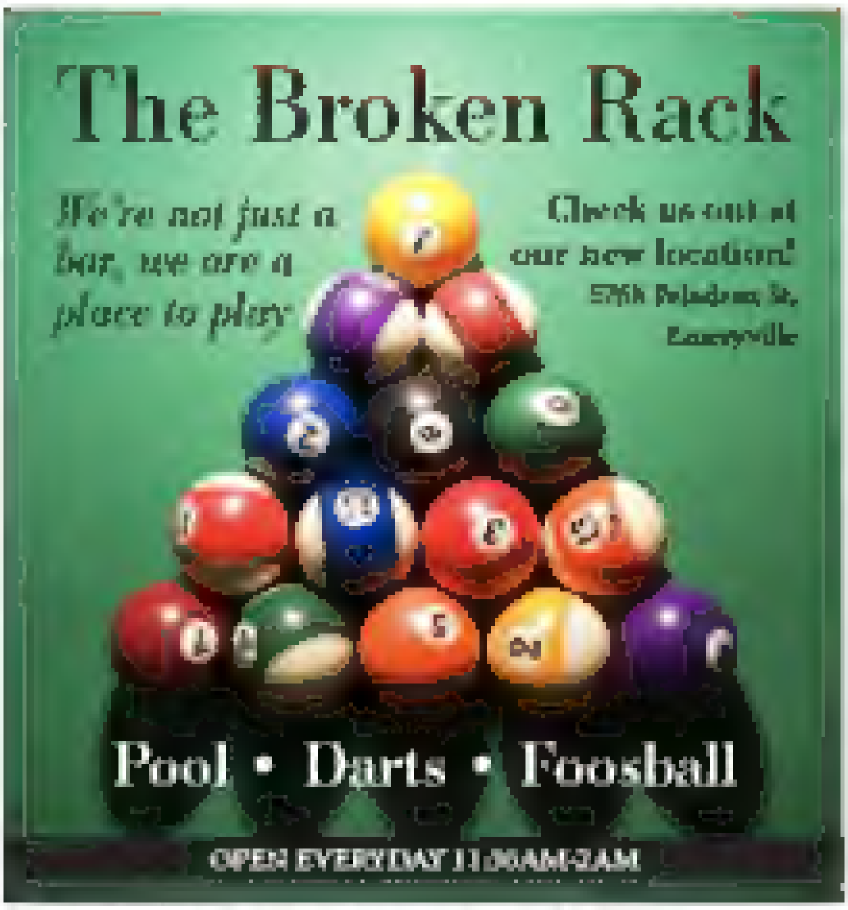


INSIDE: See the feature story, *"Rap's Poetic License Revoked,"* page 14, and the news story, *"Developer's Campaign Contributions May Have Been Illegal,"* page 11.



CONTENTS

On the Cover: Thomas Wong, Joy Liu, and Greg Moncourt; "One Struggle, Many Fronts," from Who Is Oakland? at the Oakland Museum of California. Photo courtesy of Thomas Wong.



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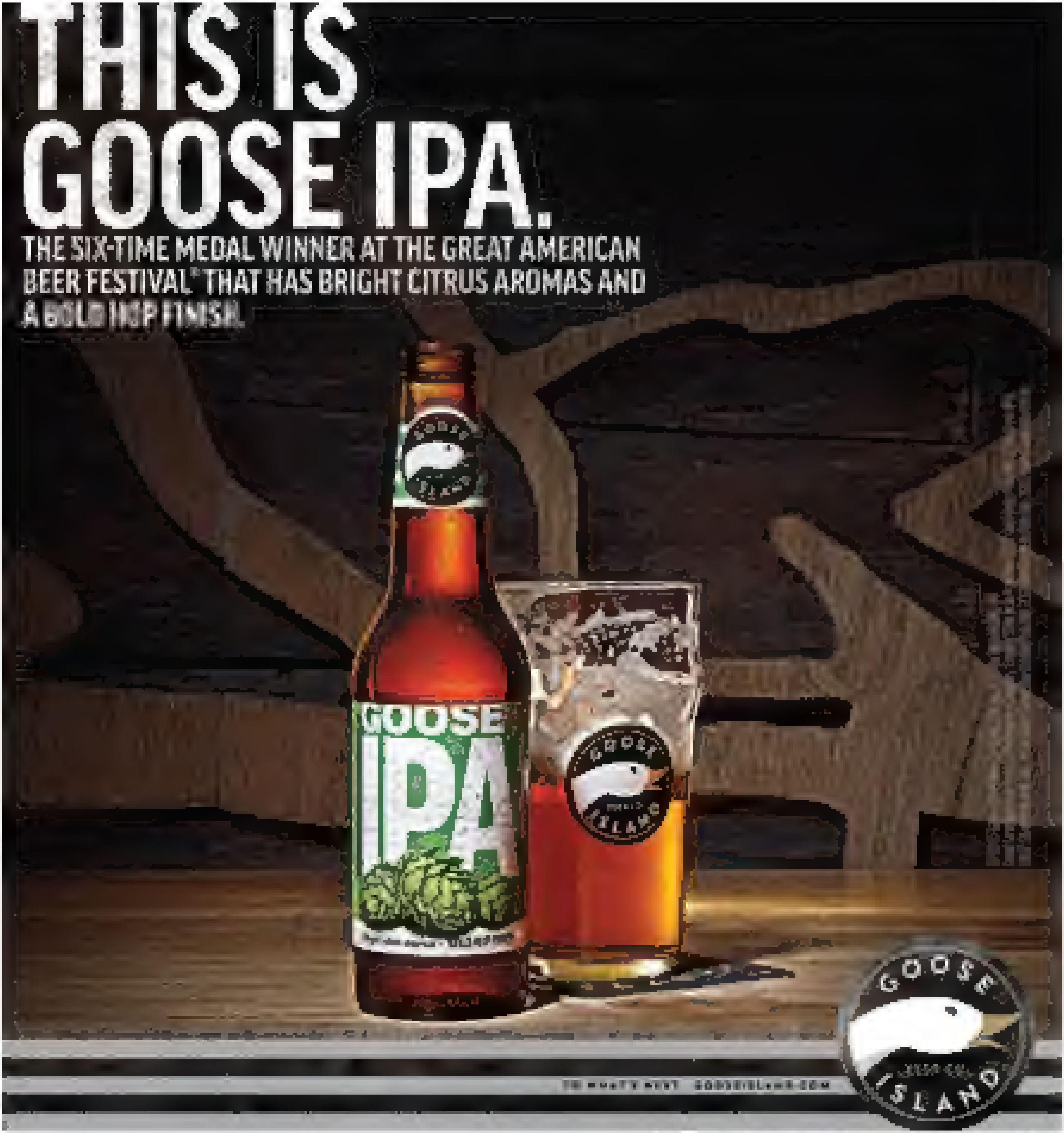
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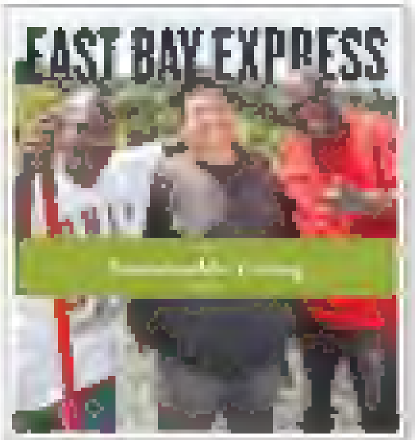
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NEWS&OPINION



LETTERS

What About Business Park Lawns?

[illegible]

Come On, City Officials

[illegible]

Standard Fare, Here I Come

[illegible]

Urbina Is Doing More Harm than Good

[illegible]

Ritterman Nailed It

[illegible]

Monsanto Should Drink Its Own Medicine


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Last December, the USDA reported that our food was safe from pesticide residue. More than half the food tested contained residue, but were within "tolerance levels" set forth by the EPA. But the report also admitted that, like in past analyses, the USDA did not test for glyphosate — the world's most widely used herbicide — citing cost concerns.

Not only do our two regulators fail to even test for the glyphosate toxin, but last year Monsanto requested and received EPA approval for increased tolerance levels for glyphosate. This was due to the fact that the average American was already poisoned with more glyphosate than the previous EPA established tolerance level. Oh, and by the way...Americans and Canadians have ten times more glyphosate in their urine than Europeans who have (mostly) banned Roundup-ready GMOs.

Also, a recent California study showed that breast-feeding mothers who lived within a mile of Roundup sprayed crops had 800 to 1,600 times the tolerance levels for glyphosate in their breast milk and had three times the occurrence of children with autism.

Roundup — a great product. Have a glass on me Monsanto.

[illegible], New York City

We Need to Study Roundup's Effects on the Human Gut

I would like to say that the real danger of glyphosate is the effect on the human gut microbiome, the friendly microbes that are a part of our human organism. My prime concern about glyphosate being in so much of our food is that the effect on the human gut microbiome has not been studied. You would think that for a chemical that is in the daily food of most people on the planet, this would have been studied, but it has not. This is a serious failing.

Glyphosate kills plants by blocking their EPSP synthase in the shikimic acid pathway. Monsanto says that because humans don't have the EPSP synthase, this effect does not occur in humans, but this is a serious tunnel-type fix because the microbes in the human gut microbiome — 100 trillion of them — are indeed affected in this way. Their EPSP synthase molecules get stalled by glyphosate even in very low doses, so this is a serious effect that occurs at levels we see in our food every day. I, for one, want to know the profound health effects that possibly occur as a result. The results are not all obvious, but probably profound in systemic ways.

To test for this hypothesis, we need serious and good science, done by independent entities, in multiple studies of varied design, testing the actual outcomes of humans ingesting glyphosate versus those who do not, and studying the relevant dynamics of the gut microbiome. It's not so hard, and I wonder why it hasn't been done yet.

It's hard to claim that a chemical is safe, or that it has no effect on the human body, when this very basic pathway to potential disruption has not been studied adequately.

I personally look to the world with a systemic mindset, which includes seeing patterns on many levels, from sociological to psychological to biological, and I see many crazy claims out there, but I also see real reasons for concern on many levels. As for speculation that we ingest, it's in the area of microorganisms daily from all I can tell. As you may know, microorganisms of some substances are ordinarily present in our bodies where they act in a highly amplified way, especially through competitive inhibition.

If the effect of glyphosate on a plant through acting on the plant's somatic cells is any indication, then glyphosate is a strong competitive inhibitor on EPSP synthase against the natural shikimic acid pathway, and seems to have a very low dissociation constant, because the plants die on receiving rather low doses of glyphosate, which is a "feature" that people use to promote how effective glyphosate is and how little needs to be sprayed.

Note that I am not claiming that it is going on, for I am an empiricist and would like to see something before believing it. However, this effect seems very likely to me given the basic science around it and the results from other adjacent areas of study, which by a sort of interpolation point to this likelihood. And it is very surprising to me that the relevant studies have not been done. It seems a failing in due diligence for a chemical that will be ingested by billions of people. This leads me to a sociological interpretation of the conflict between the profit motive and public responsibility. We see the same dynamic repeatedly throughout history.

[illegible], Boston, Massachusetts

[illegible]

Good Move on Capitalizing Black

Thank you so much! It means a lot.

[illegible], Oakland

[illegible]

Afrika Town and Qilombo Have Improved Things

Keeping an empty lot and occasionally cleaning out the garbage on it for years was not a sound strategy against crime. Afrika Town and Qilombo members remove vandalism and garbage daily, and have created something that serves the neighborhood. They routinely feed the residents.

Prior to that, the lot was an eyesore for years. People asked us routinely for several years to paint a mural and clean up that lot. But we waited until there was a solid foundation, with neighborhood support in place before coordinating the mural. Qilombo and Afrika Town are community-based organizations that have the neighborhood's best interest at heart. Prior to the speculation and gentrification hype, the owner did the minimal, if anything, to keep up the lot.

Now that Oakland is popular, the landowner wants to get paid. It's a normal [illegible]



[illegible]

Afrika Town Is Gentrification

Are not the members of Qilombo engaging in gentrification by converting a "Ghosttown" [illegible] lot into a community garden? This article seems to be a bit hypocritical to me. The owner appears prepared to sell the lot if Qilombo wishes to buy it. If Qilombo does not have sufficient funds and it's considered important to the city to preserve this land, then perhaps Oakland City Council could buy it using the tax money we pay, and the city could gift the land to Qilombo.

[illegible], Oakland

They Deserve a Larger Stage

[illegible]

Gammon Didn't Go Far Enough

[illegible]

such as water from other watersheds and ecosystems, it is not a legitimate complaint to say that you are suffering if you are denied to take less of it. The vast majority of us in California are guilty of stealing water, because gross overpopulation has created a situation where we cannot live on the ground or surface water in our own watersheds. But for San Joaquin Valley farmers, especially large farmers, it is really disgusting and totally illegitimate to complain about their water allocations being lowered. Farmers in California should be prohibited from growing water-intensive crops, from growing anything in the desert portion of the valley, and from selling crops outside of California (and maybe our bordering states). Once that prohibition is in place, farmers might have legitimate complaints about their water allocations, but even then only because we all need to eat.

Jeff Hoffman, Berkeley

A Big Help

I have found that helping my kids through the third grade can be beneficial, but as of the fourth grade, the child needs to learn to be an active independent learner. Sometimes my son has sports practice early in the day and there is a limited time for homework. In these times, I will help him get the work done so that he does not stay up too late. My observation is that for fifth grade and beyond, independent learning and studying is of primary importance, and that teachers recognize a student who is independent versus one who is spoon-fed by the parents. This great article has helped me overcome my desire to over-help as the helicopter parent. It has moved me in the direction of independence and not dependence. Thanks.

Amy Gilbert, Berkeley

The Minimum Wage Should be Fair to Workers and Small Business

Does the city council want to drive small, independent businesses out of Emeryville? That could be an unintended consequence if the council votes to go forward with its proposal to raise the minimum wage in Emeryville to $16.00 an hour — which would be the highest in the country and second highest (next to Australia) in the world!

We all know the minimum wage is going up across America. This is inevitable and long past due. My husband and I own The Stadium Bar, a pool hall with restaurant and bar located in Emeryville. Like many other small business owners, we support raising the minimum wage. After all, in a small business the people who work for you are people you know. We simply want to see the minimum wage increased in a thoughtful, fair way that allows businesses like ours to make the adjustments needed to stay afloat and puts us on a level playing field with other small businesses in neighboring communities. The proposal before the Emeryville City Council does neither.

Make no mistake about it, in the restaurant industry at least, increases in the minimum wage must be paid for by the consumer in the form of higher prices. In an industry of notoriously low-profit margins, the increase can't be simply absorbed. Some of us will try to rework staffing models — reducing the amount of work available and service levels — but all of us will have to raise prices. And it's an economic truism that when prices go up, demand goes down. When prices rise across the board and over time, consumers adjust. If prices are raised too abruptly, the result can be decreased revenue in combination with rising costs — a recipe for going out of business.

Oakland restaurants have been vocal regarding their concern over the impact on their businesses of that city's recent 36 percent increase (from $9.00 to $12.25) in the minimum wage. But at least Measure FF in Oakland was the topic of many months of public discussion and a general vote. In San Francisco, the electorate voted to raise the minimum wage from $10.74 in stages, reaching $15 in 2018. The Emeryville council proposes to raise this city's minimum wage by 60 percent all at once, with virtually no advance warning or public discussion, let alone public vote.

And it would burden Emeryville small businesses with a minimum wage 28 percent higher than their counterparts in Oakland. There is a real possibility that the combination of the magnitude of the increase and the disparity with neighboring Oakland will drive some of our small businesses out of business, putting low-wage earners out of work. Is it likely under these conditions that Emeryville will attract other small, independent businesses to replace those that are lost?

My husband and I would welcome a regional minimum wage of $12.25. It would help us to do something we would like to do anyway — raise the wages of our lowest-paid employees — without putting us at a competitive disadvantage with similar establishments. We believe the resulting price increases would be in a range that the public would support. It seems to us that the reasonable and responsible course for Emeryville is to take it to align itself with the Oakland model.

The council is fast-tracking this with plans to take action on the proposal in May and have the new minimum wage in place on July 1. We hope that Emeryville residents will join with us and other small business owners in calling on the Emeryville City Council to reflect on the impact this ordinance will have on local small businesses and take a more balanced approach by enacting a $12.25 minimum wage — fair to Emeryville workers and fair to Emeryville small business.

Marilyn Jordan, Emeryville

Correction

Our April 22 cover story, "Arson Not Necessary," misspelled Charles Wengle's last name and incorrectly stated that Jose Palacio is a current member of AK Press, rather than a former member and current resident of the 3301 ... building in Oakland that was damaged by a recent fire.

OPINION

We Refuse to Remain Silent

An Oakland solidarity statement and open letter to members of the Oakland City Council

By Shani Ealey and Tia Monique

We are concerned Black residents of Oakland calling on you to stop the illegitimate process of the sale of public land for private gain. [illegible]

[illegible]

Developer's Campaign Contributions May Have Been Illegal

UrbanCore, its lobbyists, and architect donated more than $1,000 to Oakland political candidates while negotiating to buy public land by Lake Merritt — in apparent violation of city law.

By Darwin BondGraham






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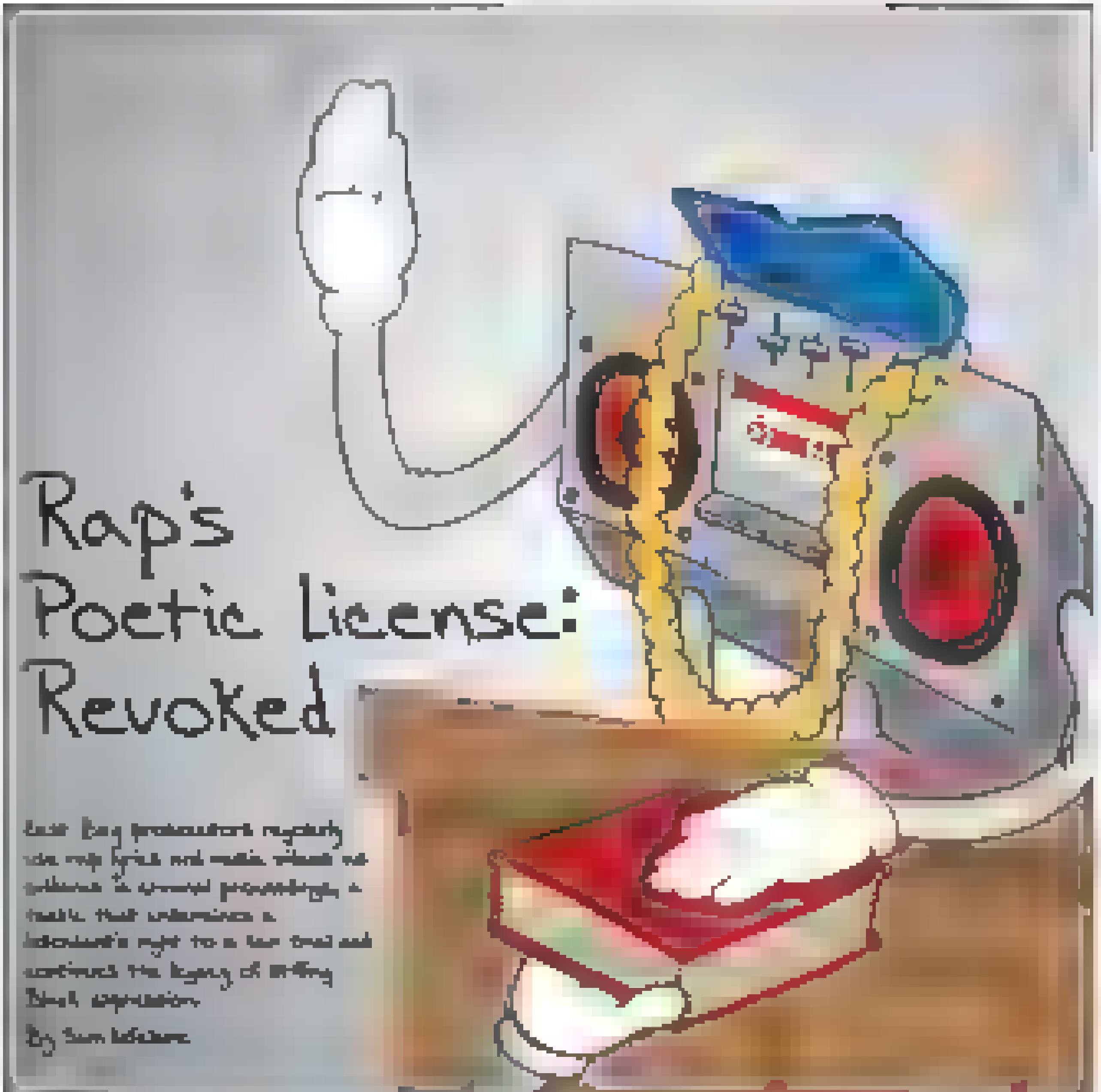
The Real Oakland Warrior



Rap's Poetic License: Revoked

East Bay prosecutors regularly use rap lyrics and music videos as evidence in criminal proceedings, a tactic that undermines a defendant's right to a fair trial and continues the legacy of stifling Black expression.

By Sam Lefebvre





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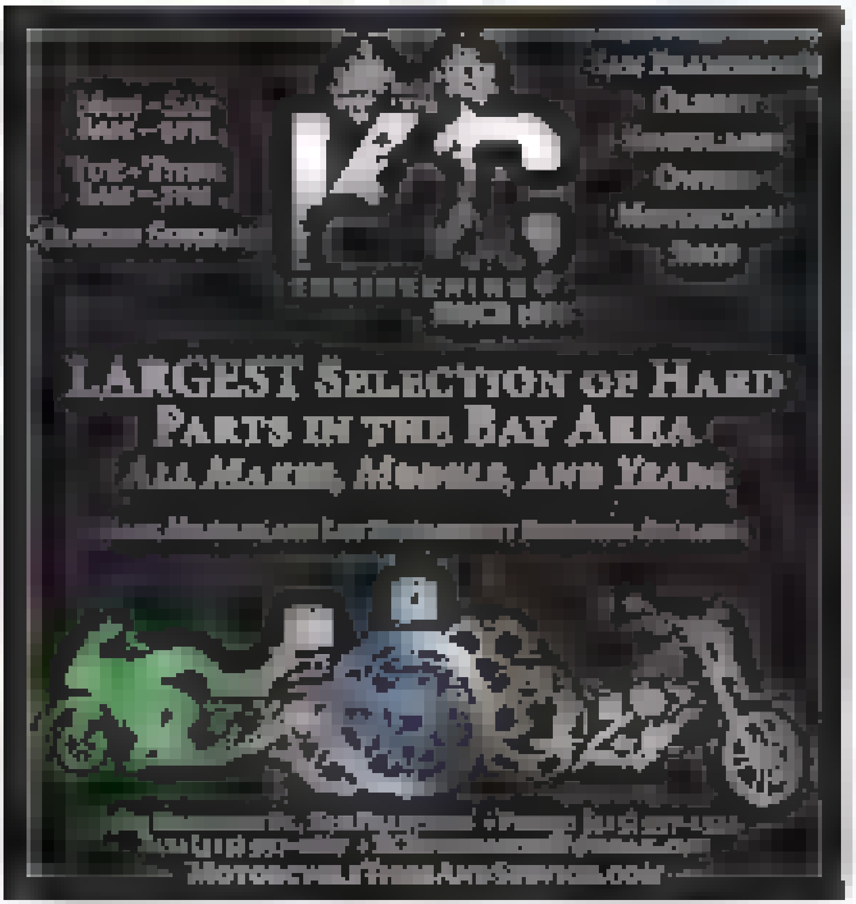


Just Pet Me

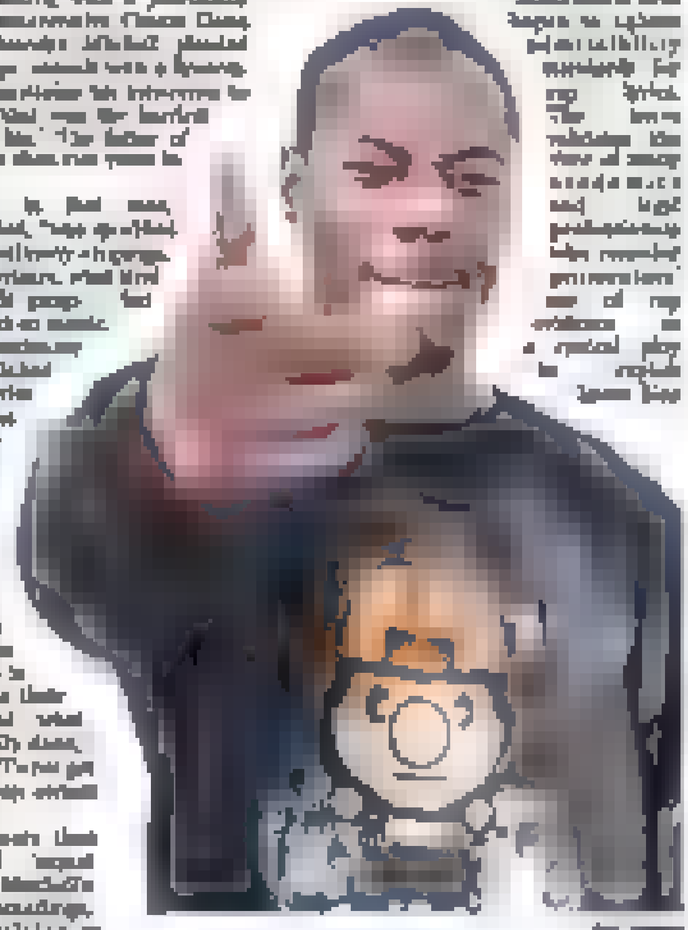


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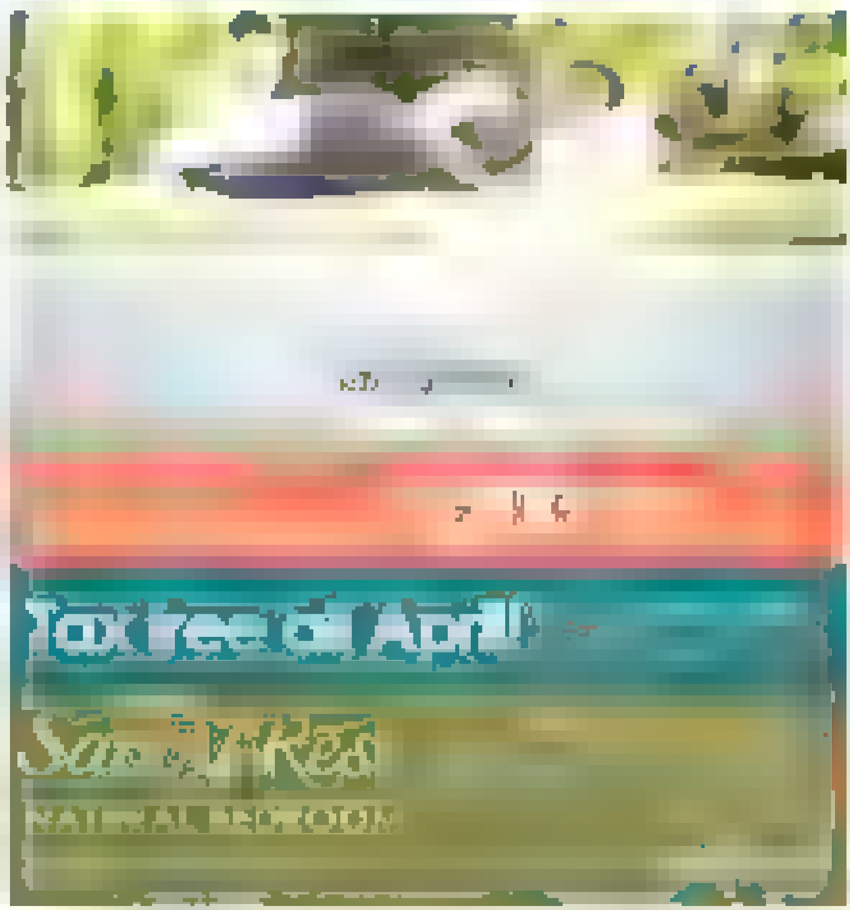

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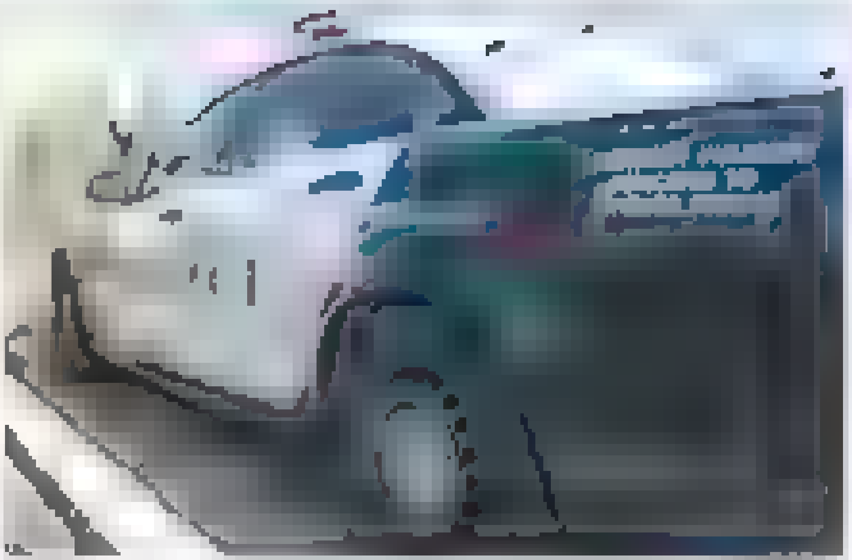

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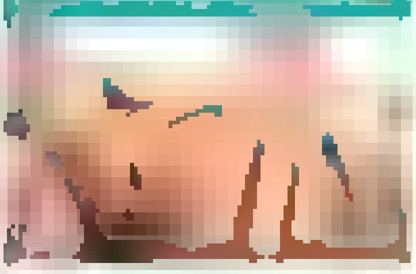



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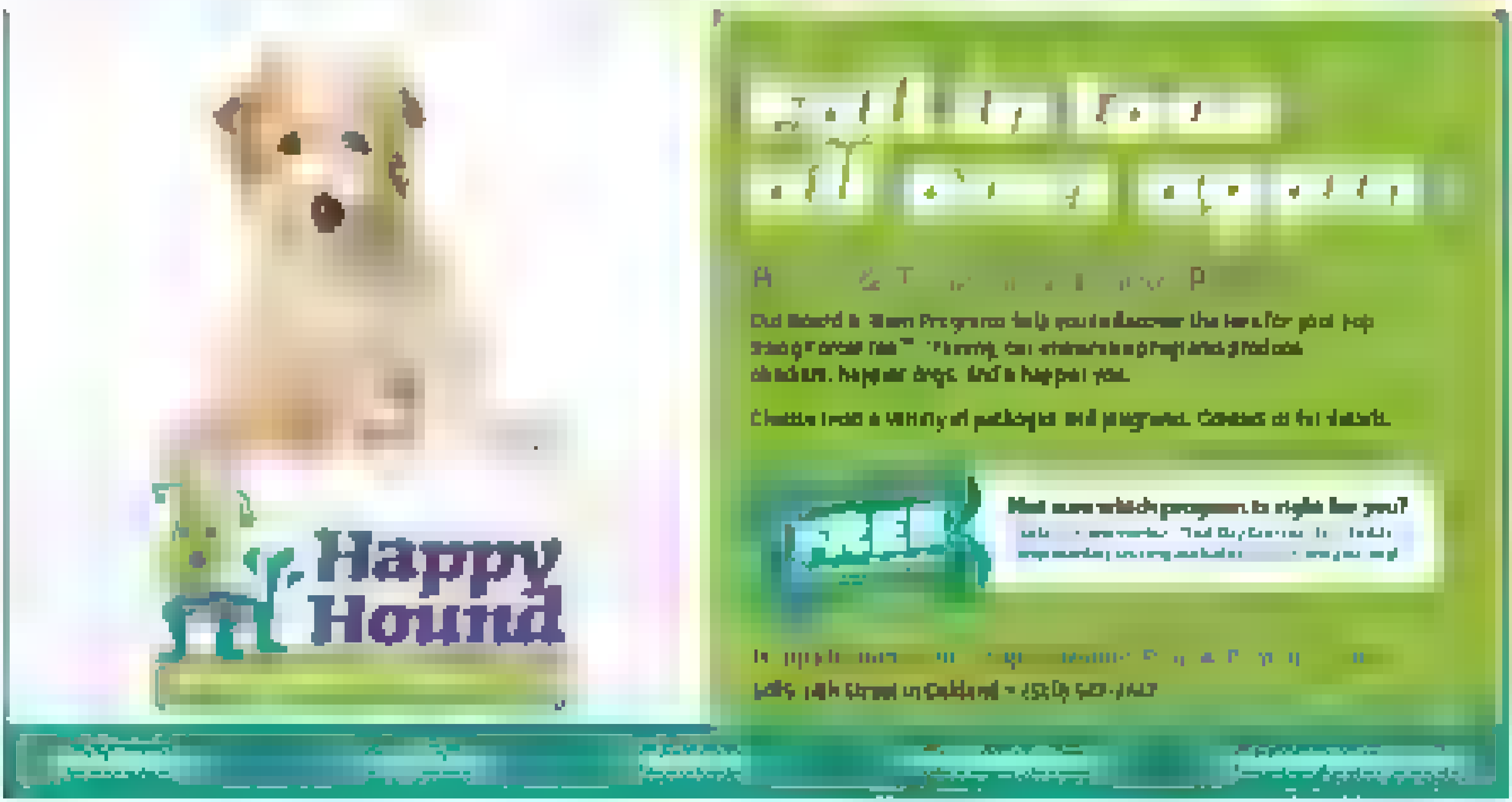







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THE BAY AREA'S


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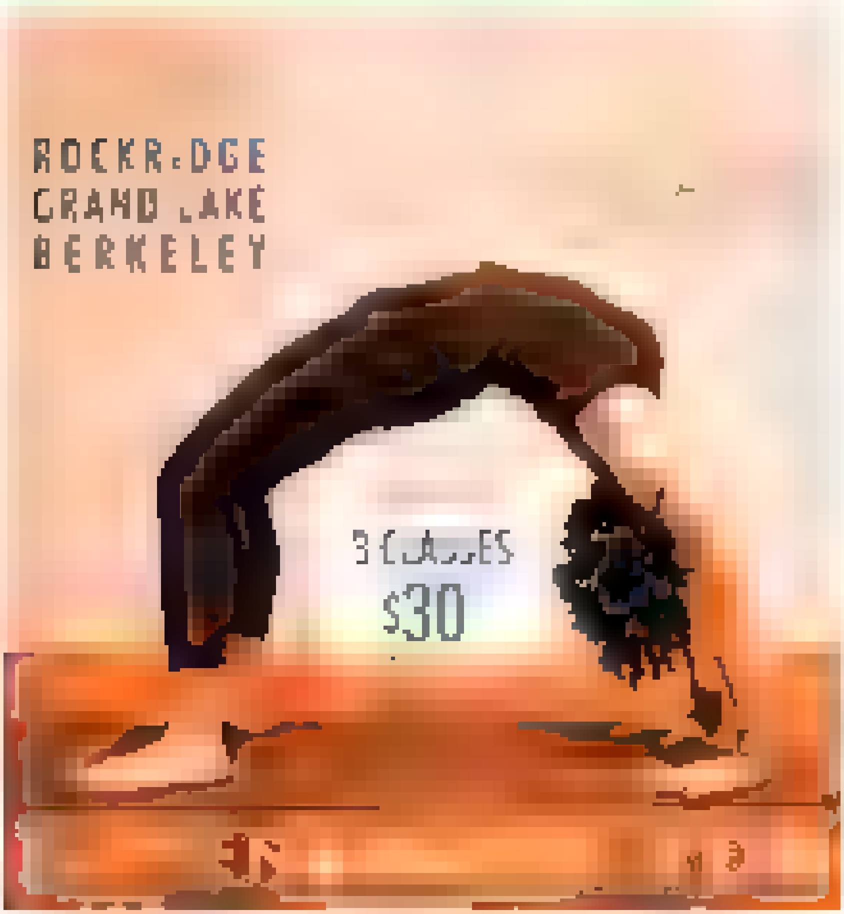


Making History

In one UC Berkeley class about Bay Area social movements, students' homework contributes to a public community history project.

By Sarah Burke





First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

ALAMEDA
Frank Bette Center

[illegible] Studios & Galleries

ALBANY
Gathering Tribes

BERKELEY
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Berkeley Screenprint Co.

[illegible]

Kala Gallery

[illegible]

OAKLAND
The [illegible] Jefferson Gallery

57th Street Gallery

[illegible] Gallery

Actual Café

[illegible]

[illegible] Café

Bellevue Club

[illegible]

Café Van Kleef

The Compound Gallery

Crown Nine Jewelry Boutique and Art Gallery

[illegible] Gallery

[illegible] Space

[illegible] Design Studio

The Layover

[illegible]

LoBot Gallery

[illegible]

Oakland First Fridays Street Festival

Oaklandish

The [illegible] Saloon

[illegible] Gallery

Royal NoneSuch Gallery

[illegible] Gallery

Somar Bar and Lounge

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant

Studio One Art Center

Tech Liminal

Telegraph Beer Garden

Temescal Art Center

The [illegible] Women's Art & Dance Studio

White [illegible] Gallery at Oakland School of the Arts

OAKLAND ART MURMUR
Aggregate Space Gallery

American Steel Studios

Betti Ono

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary

Classic Cars West

[illegible] Framing and Gallery

Creative Growth Art Center

Era Art Bar

[illegible]

Field Day And Friends

FM

[illegible] Oakland [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery

The Great Wall of Oakland

[illegible] Gallery

Johansson Projects

Joyce Gordon Gallery

Krowswork

[illegible] Gallery

[illegible] Gallery

[illegible]

[illegible] Workshop

Mercury 20

The New Parkway Theater

[illegible] / The [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery

[illegible]

Pro Arts

Rock Paper Scissors Collective

[illegible] Gallery

[illegible] Studios

Solespace

[illegible]

SLATE contemporary

Studio 11

Transmission Gallery

Uptown Art Park

Vessel Gallery

The [illegible] Gallery

Warehouse 416

EAST BAY EXPRESS



Identity Politics

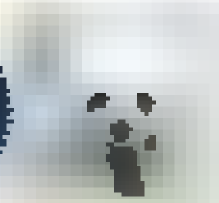
In Who Is Oakland?, artists with varying standpoints converge at the Oakland Museum of California to propose answers to the question of Oakland's identity

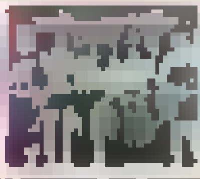
By Sarah Burke



Event Details















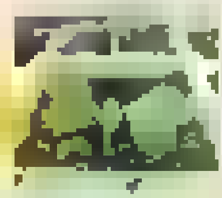


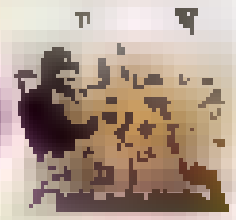


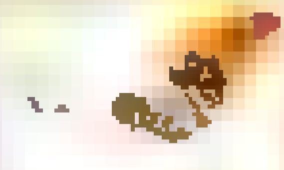






















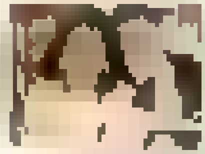








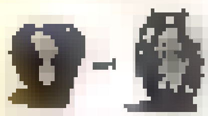














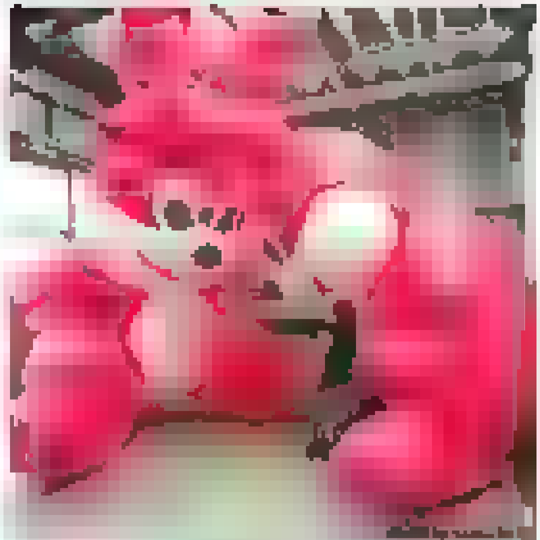






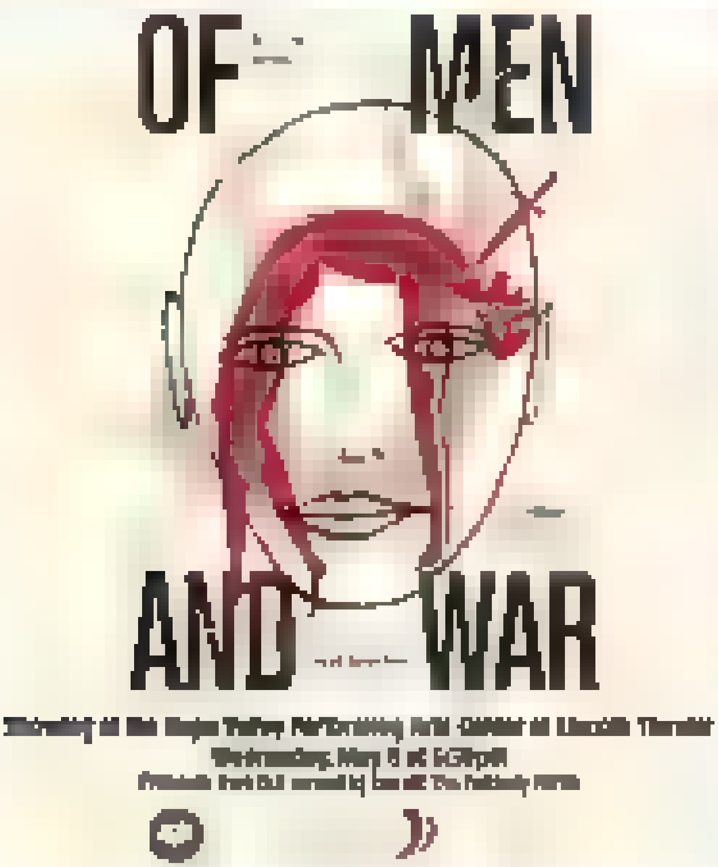


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Oakland Museum


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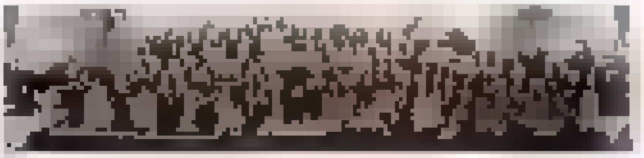

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Why you should wrestle with your daughter

By Armin Brott

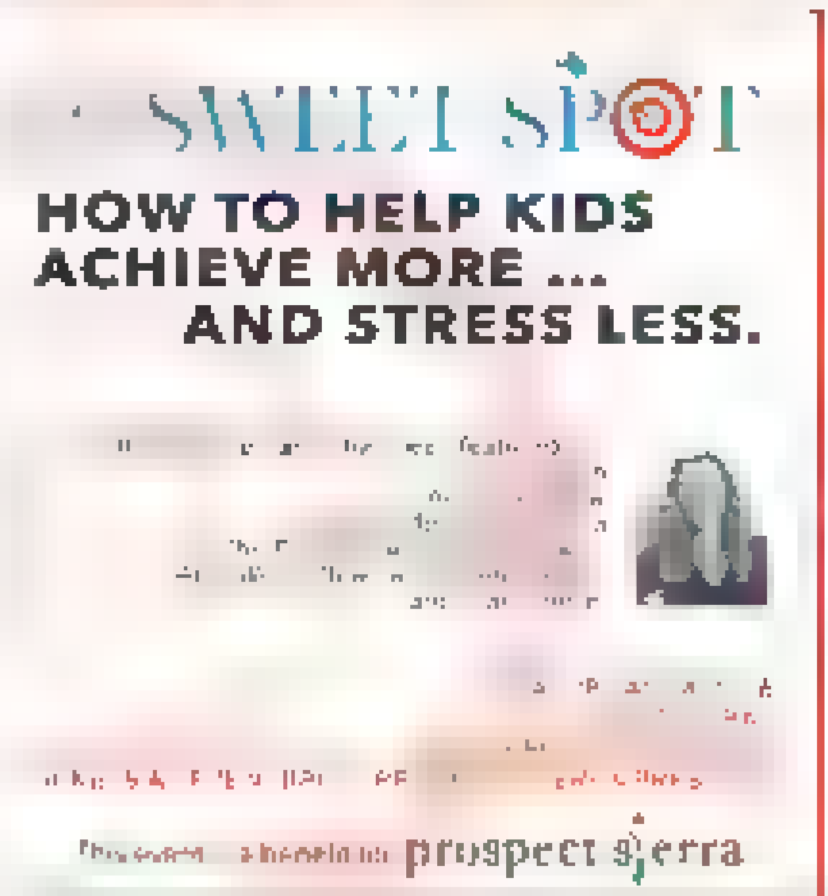
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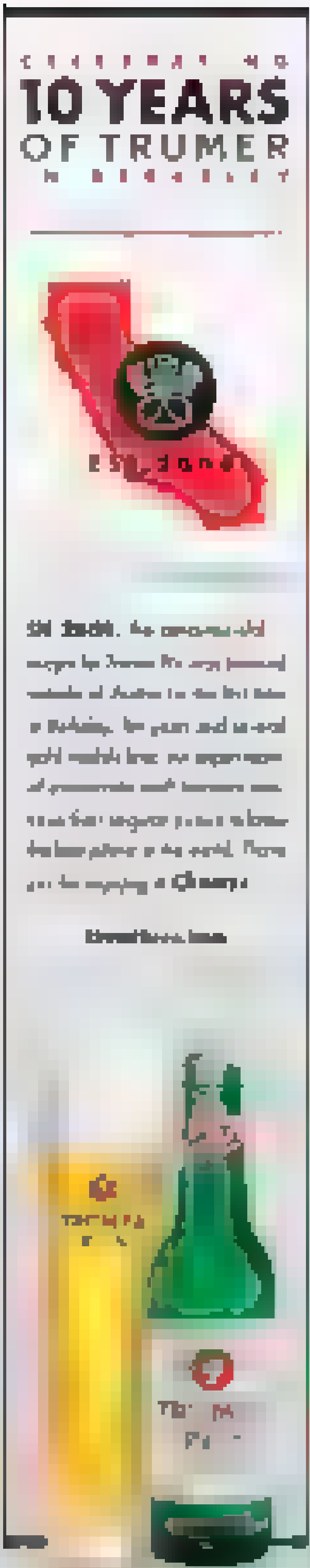


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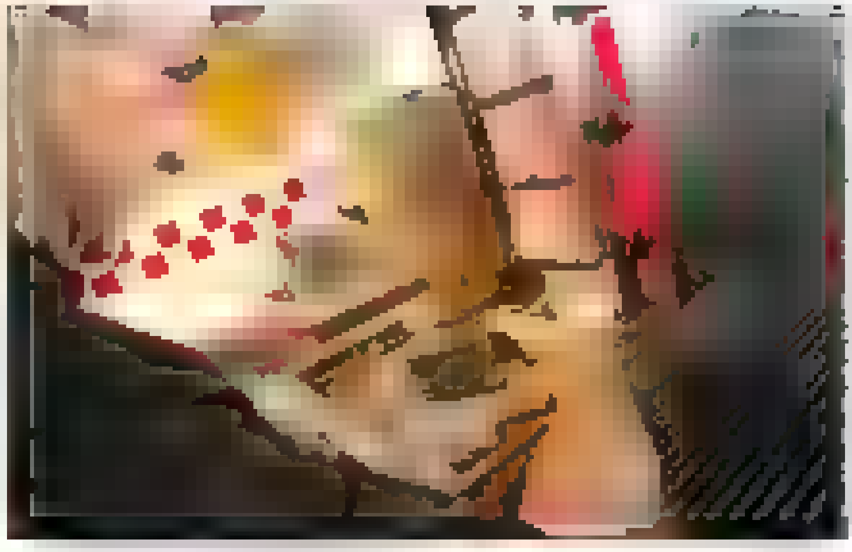












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Price Key

In Discussion with Mary Berry


Mary Berry

Crowd Sourcing

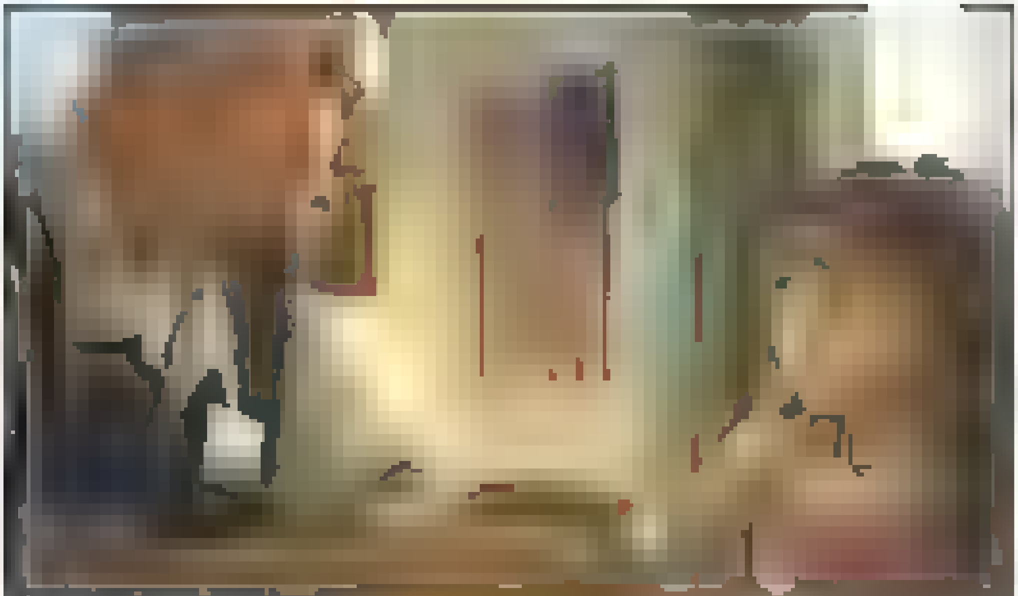


Far From the Madding Crowd

Adult Beginners



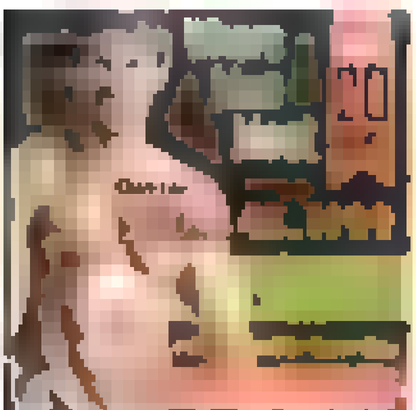
Showtimes Online



ONE-NIGHT STANDS





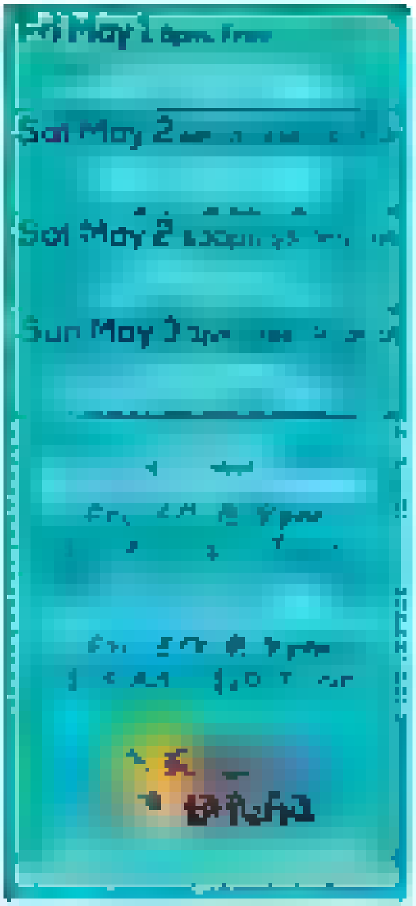


Utopian Oi!



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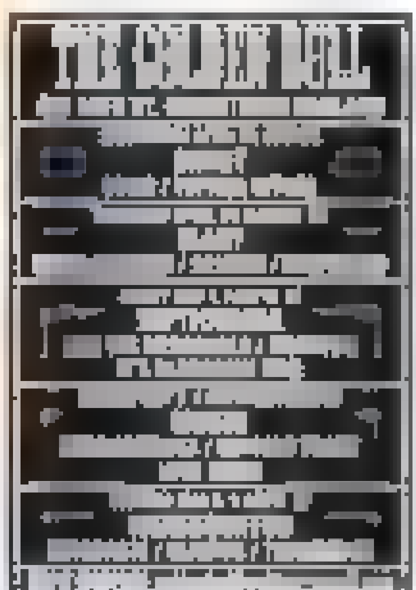

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Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

SATURDAY 2

Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith



James Kim's 40th Birthday Show

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SUNDAY 3

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae,

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Soul, Funk, R&B,

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& Hip-Hop

MONDAY 4

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

TUESDAY 5

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

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WEDNESDAY 6

All Ages

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THURSDAY 30

FRIDAY 1

SATURDAY 2

SUNDAY 3

MONDAY 4

TUESDAY 5

WEDNESDAY 6

Free Will Astrology

Horoscopes for the week of April 30–May 6

By Rob Brezsny



Aries (March 21–April 19): Chris Moneymaker was employed as an accountant in Tennessee. On a whim, he paid $39 to enter an online poker tournament. Although he knew a lot about the game, he had never competed professionally. Nevertheless, he won the tournament. As his award, he received no money, but rather an invitation to participate in the annual World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. Can you guess the storybook ending? The rookie triumphed over 838 pros, taking home $2.5 million. I don't foresee anything quite so spectacular for you, Aries, but there may be similar elements in your saga. For example, a modest investment on your part could make you eligible for a chance to earn much more. Here's another possible plot twist: You could generate luck for yourself by ramping up a skill that has until now been a hobby.

Taurus (April 20–May 20): eBay is a multibillion-dollar e-commerce business that has been around for almost twenty years. But it had an inauspicious beginning. The first item ever sold on the service was a broken laser pointer. Even though the laser pointer didn't work, and the seller informed the buyer it didn't work, it brought in $14.83. This story might be a useful metaphor for your imminent future, Taurus. While I have faith in the vigor of the long-term trends you are or will soon be setting in motion, your initial steps may be a bit iffy.

Gemini (May 21–June 20): Poetically speaking, it's time to purify your world of all toxins, pollution, and bacteria. It's a perfect moment for that once-in-a-blue-moon flush. Then, when you have a mandate to purge all clutter, junk, and problems from your midst. And as you flush away the excess of your hypocrisies and discrepancies, as you dispense with any tendency you might have to make way too much noise, remember that evil is allergic to laughter. Humor is one of the most effective psychospiritual cleansers ever.

Cancer (June 21–July 22): I was in the checkout line at Whole Foods. The shopper ahead of me had piled her groceries on the conveyor belt, and it was her turn to be rung up. "How are you doing?" she said cheerily to the cashier, a rough-looking hipster whom I happened to know is a Glanceshan poet and lead singer in a local rock band. "Oh, I am living my dream," he replied. I guessed he was being sarcastic, although I didn't know for sure. In any case, I had a flash of intuition that his answer should be your mantra in the coming weeks. It's time to redouble your commitment to living your dream! Say it twenty times in a row right now: "I am living my dream."

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22): As I awoke this morning, I remembered the dream I just had. In the dream, I had written a horoscope for you. Here's what it said: "The Kentucky Derby is a famous horse race that takes place on the first Saturday of every May. It's called 'The Run for the Roses' because one of the prizes that goes to the winning horse and jockey is a garland of 554 roses. I suspect that your life may soon bring you an odd treasure like that, Leo. Will it be a good thing, or too much of a good thing? Will it be useful or just kind of weird? Beautiful or a bit ridiculous? The answer to these questions may depend in part on your willingness to adjust your expectations."

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Don't calm down. Don't retreat into your sanctuary and take time for reflection. If you keep faith and remain committed to the messy experiences you have stirred up, the drama and agitation you're dealing with will ripen into vitality and excitement. I'm not exaggerating, my dear explorer. You're on the verge of tapping into the catalytic beauty and rejuvenating truth that lurk beneath the frustration. You're close to unlocking the deeper ambitions that are trapped inside the surface-level wishes.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): American author Stephen Crane wrote his acclaimed Civil War novel *The Red Badge of Courage* in ten days. Composer George Frideric Handel finished all his famous oratorio *Messiah* in a mere 24 days, and Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky produced his novel *The Gambler* in sixteen days. On the other hand, Junot Díaz, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, needed ten years to finish it. As for you, Libra, I think this is — and should be! — a phase more like Díaz's than those of the other three creators. Go slowly. Be super extra thorough. What you're working on can't be rushed.

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): In her book *A Natural History of the Senses*, Diane Ackerman describes a medieval knight who asked his lady for a strand of her pubic hair, a symbol of her life force. The lady agreed. He placed the talisman in a locket that he wore around his neck, confident that it would protect him and summon him in the course of the tough adventures ahead. I recommend that you consider a similar tack in the coming weeks, Scorpio. As you head toward your testing point, arm yourself with a personal blessing from someone you love. Success is most likely if you fortify your brave determination with magical tenderness.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): "An escalator can never break," said comedian Mitch Hedberg. "It can only become stairs. You should never see an 'Escalator Temporarily Out of Order' sign, just 'Escalator Is Temporarily Stairs.'" I think a similar principle applies to you, Sagittarius. If we were to try to evaluate your current situation with conventional wisdom, we might say that part of your usual array of capacities is not functioning at its usual level. But if we adopted a perspective like Hedberg's, we could rightly say that this part of you is simply serving its purpose in a different way.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): I've got a tough assignment for you. It won't be easy, but I think you're ready to do a good job. Here it is: Learn to be totally at home with your body. Figure out what you need to do to feel unconditional love for your physical form. To get started on this noble and sacred task, practice feeling compassion for your so-called imperfections. I also suggest you cast a love spell on yourself every night, using a red candle, a mirror, and your favorite creamy beverage. It may also help to go down to the playground and swing on the swings, make loud animal sounds, or engage in unusually uninhibited sex. Do you have any other ideas?

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): When American media mogul Oprah Winfrey was born, "Oprah" was not what she was called. Her birth certificate states that she is "Orpah," a name her aunt borrowed from a character who appears in the biblical *Book of Ruth*. As Oprah grew up, her friends and relatives had trouble pronouncing "Orpah," and often turned it into "Oprah." The distorted form eventually stuck. But if I were her, I would consider switching that old error sometime soon, maybe even reverting to "Orpah." For you Aquarians, it's a favorable time to investigate original intentions or explore primal meanings or play around with the earliest archetypes.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20): What I propose is that you scan your memories and identify everyone who has ever tried to limit your options or dampen your enthusiasm or crush your freedom. Take a piece of paper and write down a list of the times someone insinuated that you will forever be stuck in a dead-end possibility, or made a prediction about what you will supposedly never be capable of, or said you had a problem that was permanently beyond your ability to solve. Once you've compiled all the constricting ideas about yourself that other people have tried to saddle you with, burn that piece of paper and declare yourself exempt from their curses. In the days after you do this ritual, all of life will conspire with you to expand your freedom.

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Age Play

Because math is hard.

By Dan Savage

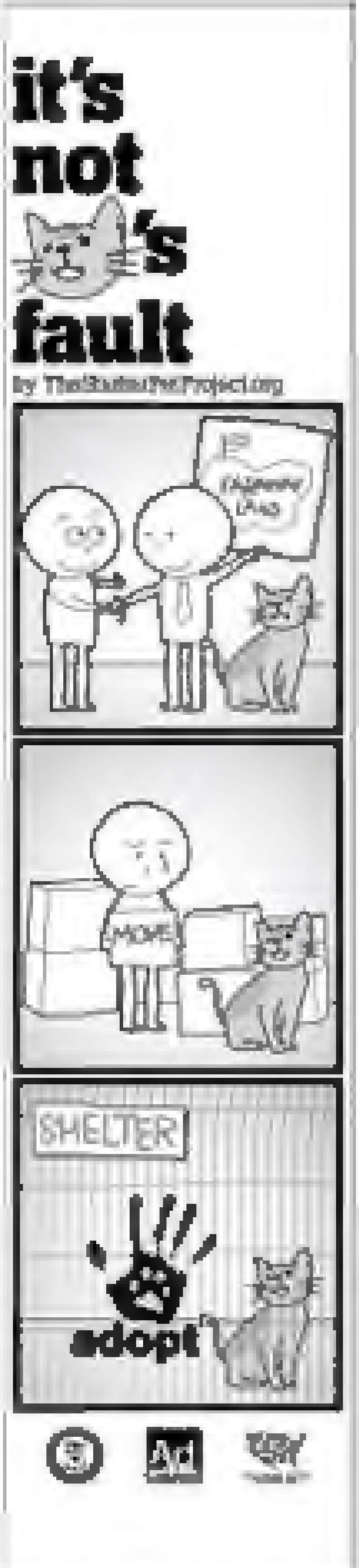
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